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 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7422
 INFO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 6889
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 C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 21145

E.O. 12356: DECL: 12/3/88

TAGS: PINT, PINR, JA

SUBJECT: MAINICHI REPORTS CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE WILL
 - RELEASE SOVIET DEFECTOR'S TESTIMONY ABOUT
 - ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN

1. (U) THE MAINICHI SHIMBUN MORNING ISSUE DEC 2
 RAN ARTICLE FROM WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT KOMORI REPORTING
 THAT U.S. HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE WILL
 SOON MAKE PUBLIC CLOSED-DOOR TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMIT-
 TEE LAST YEAR BY SOVIET KGB DEFECTOR LEVCHENKO, WHO
 SOUGHT POLITICAL ASYLUM AT U.S. EMBASSY, TOKYO, IN
 OCTOBER 1979. LEVCHENKO HAD OPERATED UNDER COVER OF
 SOVIET MAGAZINE ("NEW TIMES") REPORTER IN JAPAN FROM
 1975 TO 1979. LEVCHENKO'S TESTIMONY REPORTEDLY DEALS
 WITH HIS KGB ESPIONAGE AND INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY
 IN JAPAN, INCLUDING THE SOVIET FABRICATION OF CHOU
 EN-LAI'S ALLEGED "POLITICAL LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT"
 PUBLISHED BY A JAPANESE NEWSPAPER IN 1976. LEVCHENKO
 ALSO DESCRIBED TO THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE HIS
 CONTACTS WITH JAPANESE POLITICIANS, INCLUDING LDP AND
 JSP DIET MEMBERS.

2. (U) MAINICHI REPORTS THAT AT THE CONGRESSIONAL
 COMMITTEE'S REQUEST, STATE'S JAPAN DESK AND OTHER USG
 OFFICES DEALING WITH JAPAN REVIEWED THE TESTIMONY AND
 CONCURRED IN ITS PUBLIC RELEASE -- WHICH MAINICHI SUG-
 GESTS MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AS A "WARNING" TO JAPAN
 CONCERNING SOVIET INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS ON JAPANESE
 TERRITORY.

3. (U) A SECOND ARTICLE, IN MAINICHI'S DEC 2 EVENING
 EDITION, REPORTS THAT NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY PUBLIC
 SECURITY OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAD MONITORED LEVCHENKO'S
 ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN, AND SHORTLY AFTER HIS DEFECTION,
 HAD LEARNED OF THE CHOU EN-LAI WILL FORGERY; NPA
 AUTHORITIES HAD NOT REVEALED THEIR KNOWLEDGE AT THAT
 TIME BECAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL SENSITIVITIES.

4. (C) COMMENT: NO OTHER JAPANESE NEWSPAPER HAS
 CARRIED THIS STORY. IN RESPONSE TO A FEW QUERIES
 WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM JAPANESE NEWSMEN ABOUT THE RE-
 PORT, WE HAVE SAID "NO COMMENT." WE WOULD APPRECI-

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ATE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT WHEN AND IF THIS REPORT
WILL BE RELEASED. END COMMENT.

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